

REMARKS

Applicant has thoroughly considered the Examiner's remarks and has amended the application accordingly, as well as the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated December 2, 2004. More particularly, all claims pending in the application have been amended by this Corrected Amendment A and are presented for further consideration. Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claim 20 (and claims 21 and 22 dependent thereon) in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks. Claims 1 – 19 were withdrawn pursuant to a Restriction Requirement, while reserving the rights to pursue these withdrawn claims in a divisional patent application.

SECTION 103 REJECTION

Claims 20-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over the patent to Daniels in light of the patent to Lee. Daniels discloses a portable table for supporting motion picture projectors. The table comprises a top member 28 (although Daniels is silent on this issue, the top member is apparently of a relatively thin sheet material, such as sheet metal) and four studs 33 pivotally mounted to the underside of the top member via barrels 31 and rotating shafts 32. Legs 17 are threaded into the sleeves carried on the studs 33. The legs 17 are interconnected to form an inclined stand via arms 14, arms 28 and center post 11, when the table is erected.

The patent to Lee discloses a portable traction device comprising a carrying bag 20 holding hip cushions 18 and a frame assembly 10.

It is respectfully submitted that the patents to Daniels and Lee, whether considered alone or in any combination, fail to disclose or render obvious the invention of claim 21. Claim 21, as herewith amended, recites, among other things, a portable flotation platform for supporting a load above the level of a body of water, with the platform comprising (a) a deck (e.g., deck 5) of overall density less than that of water; (b) the deck, when deployed in the body of water, being supported adjacent the surface of the

water by the buoyant force of the deck in the water; (c) an anchor device (e.g., anchor 7) engageable with a bottom (e.g., bottom 9) of the body of water for holding the deck against horizontal movement; and (d) the deck having at least one connector (e.g., connector 31) for detachably securing the deck to the anchor device for vertical movement of the deck in the water relative to the anchor.

In contrast, Daniels does not disclose or suggest that the top member 28 is of density less than that of water (i.e., claim feature (a) above), or that the top member 28, when in water, would be (or could be) supported by the buoyant force of the top member in the water (i.e., claim feature (b) above). Further Daniels fails to disclose or suggest a connector for detachably securing the top member 28 to the legs in a manner that would enable vertical movement of the top member 28 relative to the legs 17. Rather in Daniels, while each sleeve 27 may be moveable with respect to stud 33 when the table is not erected (note, Daniels is silent on the nature of this connection), the legs 17 are held in an inclined stand position by the arms 14 and 16 and center post 11 when the table is in its erected position, so that the sleeves 27 and the platform 28 are not vertically movable with respect to the legs, when the table is in erected. Thus, Daniels lacks claim features (a), (b) and (d).

Lee does not disclose or suggest any of the claimed features (a) through (d), and thus does not and cannot teach the claim features missing in Daniels. In applicant's invention these features are important for achieving the intended purpose of the claimed portable flotation platform of supporting a load above the level of a body of water.

Claims 21 and 22 are dependent upon claim 20, and are respectfully submitted to be patentable along with and for the same reasons as claim 20.

In light of the foregoing, claims 20-22 are submitted to be patentable and the allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

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Certificate of Mailing

The undersigned certifies that the attached Corrected Amendment A was deposited in an envelope with the US Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Commissioner of Patents on December 15, 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carl A. Rowold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

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